



Senator Eide's Week in Review
March 21-25

In the Spotlight: Senate and House Transportation Budget proposals released

Many of you may not be aware that the overall state budget is actually made up of three separate budgets:

- The **Capital Budget** acquires and maintains state buildings, public schools, higher education facilities, public lands, parks, and other assets.
- The **Operating Budget** pays for the day-to-day operations of state government (including federal funds and dedicated funds).
- The **Transportation Budget** pays for transportation activities, such as designing and maintaining roads, public transit, and ferries. This budget includes amounts appropriated for both transportation operating activities and transportation capital activities.

Governor Gregoire, the Senate, and House of Representatives, each propose a Capital, Operating, and Transportation budget. After all the budgets are presented, the Senate and the House of Representatives negotiate differences and approve a cohesive budget. This week, a key step in the budgeting process happened; the Senate and House of Representatives released their Transportation Budgets: [SB 5176](#) and [HB 1175](#).

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Transportation Budget Proposals:

Funds allocated for projects in the 2011-2013 biennium decreased in the Senate and House Transportation Budgets released this week. For the first time in our state's history, the State Transportation budget is experiencing a reduction in funds to the tune of \$821 million dollars. Due to the Great Recession and high gas prices, Washingtonians are driving less which means the state is faced with a decrease in gas tax revenues—the main source of funding for highway and transportation projects.

Although many local transportation projects saw a decrease in funding, state appropriations provided for the I-5/SR 161/SR 18-Interchange Improvements (also known as the Triangle Project) remained fully intact in the Senate and House Transportation Budgets. This project is underway to help relieve the congestion at the I-5/SR 161/SR 13 intersection. \$109,495,000 is allotted for the project in its entirety.

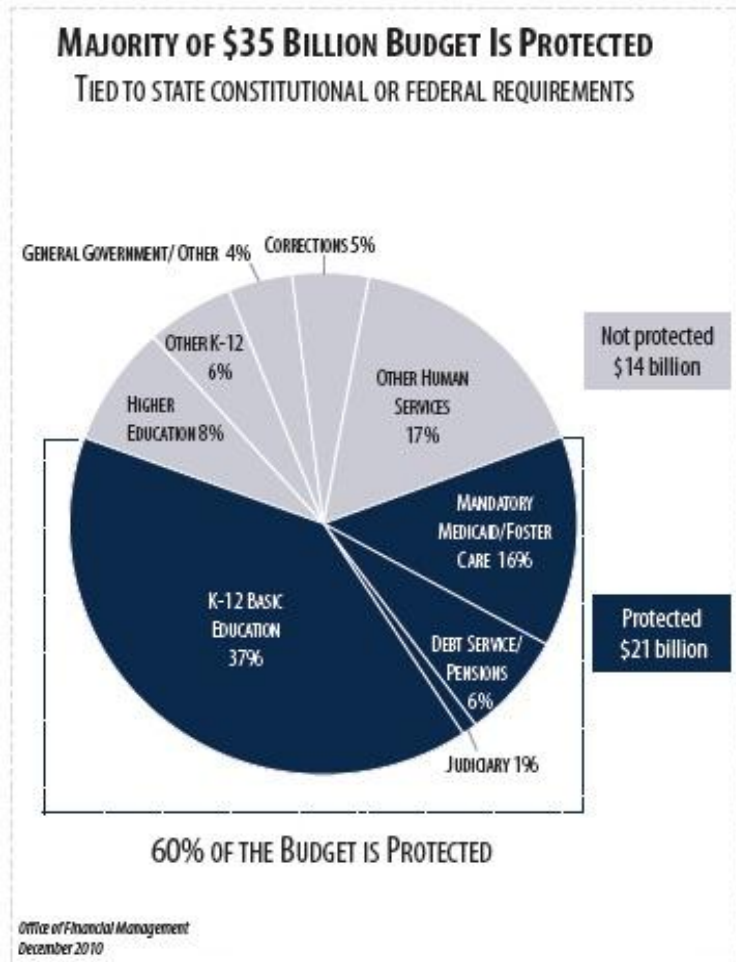
See the complete list of 30th District Projects bellow:

2011-13 Biennium Senate Proposed Transportation Budget Project List for 30th District (Dollars in Thousands)

Project	2009-11 funding	2011-13 funding	Total funding (including prior)
I-5/SR 161/SR 18 - Interchange Improvements	33,819	44,610	109,495
SR 99/S 284th to S 272nd St - Add HOV Lanes	266	0	14,790
SR 161/Jovita Blvd to S 360th St, Stage 2 - Widen to Five Lanes	120	0	26,057
SR 167/15th St SW to 15th St NW - Add HOV Lanes	557	0	43,706
SR 167 HOT Lanes Pilot Project - Managed Lanes	507	246	18,814
SR 167/8th St E Vic to S 277th St Vic - Southbound Managed Lane	2,891	13,223	82,005
SR 509/I-5 to Sea-Tac Freight & Congestion Relief	3,824	20	26,541
Federal Way - S 317th Street	184	0	23,893
SR 167 Improvement Projects – Corridor Mobility Improvement Analysis	393	518	9,604
SR 18/SR 99 Vic to Auburn Black Diamond Rd I/C - Paving	475	2,279	4,352
SR 509/F B Hoyt Bridge - Bridge Painting	1,277	0	1,369
SR 509/Joes Creek Bridge - Bridge Painting	580	0	666
SR 161/ Noise Wall	137	143	1,550
CVISN-CVISN-Deployment Stations along I-5, I- 90, and I-82	1,637	699	3,204
Traffic Signal Controller Integration - Multiple Locations	125	0	125
I-5 SB Ramps Meters from Tukwila to Federal Way	0	700	700
I-5 NB Ramps Meters at S 272nd St, SR 516 & S 188th St - ITS	0	735	735
Mark Twain Elementary-Safe Routes to School Program	0	421,197	421,197
Lakota Middle School-Safe Routes to School Program Federal Way	0	885,080	885,080

Continuing Budget Challenges:

This year, legislators are faced with the difficult task of crafting the state budget for the 2011-13 biennium. In the last two years the Governor and the legislature have cut \$12 billion from the state budget—and this year it looks like we will have to cut \$5.2 billion more.



Last session the legislature passed a limited tax package of \$761 million to fund critical education, health care and social service programs. Last year, I voted for this revenue package because I am a strong supporter of our schools, ensuring children and families have access to health care as well as helping those in great need. Last November, Washington and 30th District voters overwhelmingly passed Initiative 1107 (two out of every three voters) and in doing so eliminated the \$761 million that funded so many needed programs. Voters state-wide and in the 30th District also passed Initiative 1053 that requires a two-thirds majority to close tax loopholes or increase revenue. I have heard and received your message loud and clear.

As the economic recession continues, the legislature is facing yet another shortfall: \$5.2 billion. Of Washington's \$35 billion budget, 60% is protected by Constitutional or federal requirements. That means we have \$14 billion from which we must cut \$5.2 billion. This area is made up of human services such as health care and job training, corrections and prisons, higher education and various critical K-12 programs. Governor Chris Gregoire has already released her operating budget proposal and the Senate and House of Representatives are hard at work crafting their own versions. After all the budgets are presented, the House of Representatives and the Senate will negotiate differences to create one cohesive budget. This will undoubtedly be a long and painful process for everyone.

I am deeply concerned that vital and valued services will be cut. Many of these are public services that I took office to protect—like public education, public safety and health care. But, we are faced with a stark reality and have few options to choose from. As the coming weeks unfold, I will be sure to stay in constant communication to keep you updated on our progress.

Aerospace Student Loan Program:

I am thrilled to announce that [House Bill 1846](#), creating an aerospace training student loan program, was passed into law this week. HB 1846 is a House companion bill to [Senate Bill 5674](#) which I sponsored. Thursday was Aerospace Day at the capitol and Governor Gregoire fittingly signed the bill into law on this day. Creating an aerospace student loan program is a logical step in the progression to create a 21st Century aerospace workforce in Washington State. The award of the \$35 billion Boeing tanker contract is estimated to create 11,000 new jobs in Washington. The challenge now is finding ably trained technicians for those positions. This legislation will help train workers to fill many of these family wage, high demand aerospace positions.

Early Learning and K-12 Education:

Today Friday, March 25th marked the “cut-off” for holding committee hearings on bills that passed out of the opposite house. This means that only education bills that were passed out of the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee by today's “cut-off” will continue through the legislative process. April 12th is the deadline for these bills to pass out of the Senate.

Highline Community College Honor and Leadership Students:



Senator Eide with Highline Community College President, staff, and students

This week I had the pleasure of being visited by [Highline Community College](#) President, Dr. Jack Bermingham and 10 Honor and Leadership Students. Highline delivers innovative education and training opportunities for students in our community. Constituents Olga Afichuk, Derek Thompson, and Ben Doo were among the students that visited. These outstanding students took time out of their busy schedules to advocate for continued higher education funding in the state budget. When asked about the Highline students he brought to Olympia, Dr. Bermingham said, “students reflect their own commitment to leadership and service. They want to make sure their voice is heard in the legislature.” I want to commend the Honor and Leadership students I met this week for their scholastic excellence and for providing me with input on the state budget.

Online Learning Day at the Capitol:

On Tuesday, parents, teachers, and students affiliated with Federal Way’s [Internet Academy](#) (iA) and other online learning institutions came to Olympia to advocate for online learning programs. Ron Mayberry, Federal Way Internet Academy Principal, and Internet Academy teachers Mike Feuling, Wendy Neven, and Kathi Olson all visited my office. Suzanne Smith, Board of Education Director for Federal Way Public Schools, and her son Douglas, also visited my office to offer testimony to the success of the Internet Academy.

The Internet Academy, established in 1997 was the first of its kind in Washington. It now provides over 600 K-12 students with a unique and adaptable educational experience. Students can enroll in the Internet Academy for a variety of reasons; to take a more challenging course load, illness, discipline, drop-out prevention or recovery, or flexibility. Keeping budget cuts from harming our children and their education is a top priority for Internet Academy advocates and continues to be my top priority as I serve on the Education Committee.

This Week's Visitors from the 30th District:

If you are ever in Olympia and are from the 30th District, please visit my office: Legislative Building 305. I would love to see you!

- *Athena, Eric, Jordan, and Dakota herder; Online Schooling Advocates
- *Ron Mayberry, Mike Fueling, Wendy Nevin, Kathi Olson; Federal Way Internet Academy
- *Suzanne and Douglas Smith; Online Schooling Advocates
- *Charlene Strong; Equal Rights Washington
- *Steve Cain, Chris Carrel, Bryant Enge; City of Federal Way
- *Sara Montgomery; Campus Woods Day Care
- *Evangeline Abodinas; Arc of Washington
- *Dr. Jack Bermingham, Jonathan Brown, Olga Afichuk, Derek Thompson, Ben Doo; Highline Community College
- *Cheryl Williams G., Greg Vicars, Sister Sharon Casey; Catholic Community Services

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